NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

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[The following observations on *Sheep*, we have been assured are from the pen of a person who has possessed advantages for obtaining a knowledge of the subject of his essay of a very superior nature. The Essay itself appears to indicate that its author has much practical as well as scientific acquaintance with the nature of that interesting and useful animal, which forms one of the richest gifts of Providence to civilized man. The communication is very acceptable to us, and we have no doubt will be highly valued not only by the agricultural and manufacturing portions of the community, but by those who wish well to the prime pursuits of human industry, although they may not be directly or personally concerned or interested in raising sheep, nor establishing or prosecuting any manufactory in which "*The Fleece*" forms the staple commodity.]

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

ESSAY ON SHEEP.

BY H. D. GROVE.

Of crossed breeds.

The general rule is that the lamb possesses an equal share of all the properties of each parent. The idea is very erroneous that the size and form are more affected by the one, and the intrinsic qualities of the animal by the other—for although, in the first generations, the resemblance to the parent Ram may be most apparent, it is nevertheless certain that in subsequent years the distinctive qualities of the Ewe will again appear in the offspring. A pure race has been carefully preserved in Saxony which has had great influence in improving the native wool by constant crossing with full blood rams. But it is certain that real and durable excellence can only be attained by preserving the pure blood; and the best proof of this fact is found in Spain itself, where the Leonese flocks still continue to produce 25 per cent finer wool than those of Sozia; although the latter are supplied every year with more or less Leonese bucks and the method of treatment is precisely similar in each.

The improvement produced by crossing, naturally progresses most rapidly where the native ewes are of the best quality, although coarse wooled sheep may also be gradually improved upon in the same way; but in all such cases the size and form will be as much affected as the fineness of the wool, and all the attempts made to preserve the original size, while the wool was made finer have eventually failed.

In the selection, therefore, of a breed, or of a single ram for the purpose of a cross, regard should be had solely to the fineness and colour of the wool—to the firmness of its adhesion to the skin, and to the general health of the animal—and not at all to the large size; which property will be sure to disappear in the sequel if the wool does not degenerate.

Of the introduction of a pure breed.

The raising of an unmixed breed of sheep superior to the original flock is certainly much more expensive and difficult than improvement by crossing with rams of higher grades bought singly. It requires a considerable capital as well as very great care and attention.

It is seldom that young ewes are to be had at any tolerable price, and many persons who undertake this business are obliged to content themselves with such as cannot yield more than two, or at most three lambs.

A very important circumstance in a purchase of this kind is to inform one's self about the previous mode of feeding to which the sheep have been accustomed, and if any change is necessary, to introduce it gradually. Better feed will have a tendency to improve a flock, but it is dangerous to make even this change too suddenly.—Those who are able and willing to furnish capital for this purpose and devote the necessary attention to the business will nevertheless find themselves very soon repaid for their trouble and expense; since, in addition to the extra price of his wool, the owner of such a flock will very soon be able to dispose of full blood rams, and, as his flock increases, of ewes also; the price of which, if the best are constantly retained, cannot fail gradually to advance.

To make this business productive it is necessary to pay particular attention to the food of the ewes and lambs, and to have the latter dropped early in the season that they may attain their full strength at the proper period to produce their own young. Rams of inferior grades must of course be carefully excluded from the flock, and the ewes must be treated with extraordinary care to ensure long life and prevent premature barrenness. It is still doubtful whether there is an intrinsic difference in this respect between Merino and other sheep, or whether it is merely owing to the extraordinary attention they have received; but the fact is unquestionable that they usually rear healthy lambs at the age of twelve and sometimes even of fifteen years.

Even if the wool at that age should become a little less fine, the animal must not on this account be discarded, because if the blood remains unmixed this evil will cure itself. If these rules are carefully observed, the increase of a flock of fine blood may be made very considerable as will appear by the following estimate.

Commencing with 12 yearling ewes I estimate that each will bear one lamb the first subsequent season and as many the second, and that half of these are ewe lambs. The third year 9 ewe lambs may be expected, the fourth 12, the fifth 18, and the 6th 22. Supposing that the oldest ewes have now become barren, the same progression will give, at the end of sixteen years from the purchase, a flock of 867 ewes of pure blood, and the low estimate of 6 lambs in all from each ewe is so much within bounds as fully to offset the chances of loss from disease or accident, if good care is taken in managing the flock.

The first purchase of ewes of pure blood will obviate the necessity of subsequent purchases of rams from time to time, which is absolutely necessary in a mixed flock to prevent the wool from degenerating; and a further profit results from the sale of the rams which may commence with the fourth or fifth year.

On the selection of sheep for breeding.

The most important point is to be certain of the pedigree of the animal to be bought, and a sheep known to be of pure blood should always be preferred before another of finer fleece and better form, whose ancestry is uncertain. Next in importance are the fineness and elasticity of the wool, the evenness of the fleece over the whole body, the absence of hairs—the strong, compact form—and full health. The best sheep are distinguished by full and bright eyes, bright red veins about the lachrymal glands, a broad forehead, short but stiff ears, a short, thick neck, broad chest, round shoulders, and generally a stout, thick set form, with short legs.

The *size* of the body is of less consequence than any of these particulars, having much less influence on the progeny than many people suppose. The thickness of the fleece is mainly affected by the quality and quantity of nourishment, and will not continue through many successive generations without care in this point. There are many other marks of a supposed good ram, such as a large tuft of wool on the forehead, a large hanging dewlap, much wool on the hinder legs, three rows of wool round the neck, &c. &c.—but all these or any other similar marks I consider as of no sort of consequence, and believe they may all be found on very inferior sheep.

It sometimes happens that wool growers are more desirous of heavy fleeces than of superior fineness of the wool, and therefore select in preference the largest, heaviest animals rather than those of the finest fleece; but in this case they fail of procuring the genuine merino blood which never reaches to a large stature under any circumstances.

During pregnancy the ewes should be better fed than usual, and this feed should be continued till they are furnished with ample pasture. It is of great importance that the lambs should acquire strength enough very soon after birth to support the bad weather which may follow in the spring—and be able to benefit by the early pasturage, by which means they may be sooner weaned and the fleece of the ewes increased by stopping the flow of milk.

The rams in every flock must of course be kept separate from the ewes and yearlings—the most convenient arrangement is to pasture them with the wethers. One buck is sufficient for about forty ewes. In Spain the proportion is 3 to 100. During the season of impregnation they are fed, morning and evening, with oats.

In the season for dropping lambs the utmost care is necessary, and if the shepherd is not to be entirely depended on, the proprietor should have him constantly overlooked. The birth is commonly easy but often slow. Ignorant shepherds are very apt on such occasions to be aiding in the birth, which is always useless and often very injurious.

It often happens that ewes will not own their lambs, particularly the first they bear; and in this case I would advise to sprinkling a little salt on the lamb which induces the ewe to lick it, after which it will generally allow it to suck. If not, the ewe with her lamb should be placed

in a separate enclosure (of which several should be previously prepared) and fed with the most nutritious fodder, particularly with succulent liquids, that the udder may be uncomfortably distended; and if this is not sufficient she must be tied by the legs till the lamb has been once suckled; after which there will be no further difficulty. The mother's milk is by far the best nourishment for the lambs, and should never be taken from them for other purposes, as is often practised by shepherds. About three or four weeks after birth the lambs should be fed with bruised oats, or oil cakes softened in water, tender hay and well dried red clover, or other similar fodder. In order that the lambs alone may eat their proper fodder an enclosure is made, through the apertures of which they can pass, while the full grown sheep are excluded.

This previous feeding enables them better to support being weaned at the proper time.—The weaning should take place very gradually for the benefit of the ewe as well as of the lamb, and after weaning, the lambs should be kept at a considerable distance from the ewes.

The ram lambs are cut at three or four weeks old, the tails of the ewe lambs are cut off to within about three inches or something less of the body at the same age.

The *fodder* or *pasture* of sheep has been found after the most careful experiments to have no effect on the fineness and very little on the elasticity of the wool; but a very important one on the thickness and length and consequently on the weight of the fleece. Its effect on the health and increase of a flock is of course all important.

The most important circumstance in regard to the strength of the sheep is that the supply of food should be *equal in quantity* at all times, except a little increase during the time of suckling. Even the wool often becomes weak and loose in consequence of sudden changes from plentiful to scanty feed and vice versa. It is therefore essential that the fodder in winter and the pasturage in summer should be provided in such manner as to subject the sheep to no changes of this kind.

A sudden increase of food is very injurious, although sheep may be gradually accustomed to a very plentiful supply, and generally fully repay the additional expense in the increased quantity of their wool. The proportion of time during which sheep may be pastured differs of course in different climates. In Saxony, sheep are kept about five months on winter feed, but good farmers lay in a stock for 170 days to guard against scarcity in case of a backward spring. The excess is never lost, though late fall feed or early pasture in the spring should allow it to be laid up for another year.

Pasturage.

Sheep are seldom admitted to pasture in summer on the meadows, except here and there on the driest and leanest spots, but it often happens that they are driven on in the spring, if the grass starts early enough for them to feed some time and be driven off again four weeks before the cattle are driven on. The sheep receive no injury in this way, provided there are no pools of standing water in the meadow, and they do not remain on it too long. Generally, however, the only pasture they have, is on the drier and leaner soils; particularly on steep hills, not easily arable nor producing sufficient pasturage for cattle. This kind of pasture is the best suited to sheep, and such land can in no way be so well improved. It often happens however, that such high lands are not without swampy and springy places or pools of water either on the sides or in ravines between the hills; and all such spots are very dangerous for the sheep. All places where water plants are nourished should be carefully avoided, and more than ever during the greatest heat of summer when they are dry from evaporation. They are then more dangerous than ever because deadly vapours are constantly rising through the dry crust that covers them, and oftener than any other circumstance create the rot which it is so difficult to conquer when once its ravages have begun. It is by no means during the growing season that this danger is most to be feared, for at that period the sheep find sufficient nourishment in dry situations and avoid wet spots of their own accord. Merino sheep are doubtless more subject to the rot than the coarser breeds, and therefore require particular care in this respect. All such marshy spots should therefore be carefully drained in places where these sheep are to be pastured. Wooded pasturage affords sometimes very good feed—but if the shade is very close, the grass, though sometimes very plentiful, is not so nutritious as elsewhere and the wool of sheep receives some injury from the deep shade. The young grass on fields in fallow as well as the fall feed after harvest are excellent for sheep, particularly the former.

The best pasture must be reserved for the lambs, the next for rams and ewes, and the poorest for the wethers.

The winter feed consists usually of hay and straw only. The best hay is well dried, early fresh meadow hay, which should be mowed as young as possible, and not cut on marshy places. Clover, Lucerne, &c. if well got in, are preferable to other grasses.

Straw intended for sheep must also be got in dry and sweet. It is nourishing only in so far as it is mixed with weeds, unripe ears, and heads not thoroughly thrashed. The best straw is therefore to be found on the worst managed farms. Perfectly clean straw affords almost no nourishment, except a little in the joints;—but it aids in digestion and helps at least to fill the stomach.

The stalks of peas and beans are more succulent, but there is a great difference between such as are mowed before they are fully ripe and those that are dry before mowing. In the former case they make very good fodder—though hay is preferable. The usual calculation is two or three pounds per day of dry fodder for a full grown sheep, but many farmers give less than a pound of hay, and make up the deficiency in straw and pea vines. A flock may be kept alive on this fodder, but without mixing some grain or at least half-thrashed straw with it, it is impossible that a flock should go on improving in quality, notwithstanding the greatest care in other respects. The most economical method, considering the increased weight of wool which may be produced by it, is to give the sheep as much dry fodder as they will readily eat. If hay alone is used, at least two hundred weight is necessary for each sheep; and if a few peas and summer straw are added the supply will be ample for the winter.

Potatoes, turnips, carrots and many other roots furnish excellent fodder for sheep; of which it is unnecessary to speak at large, the circumstances of each farm being the best guide as to their use.

Salt is required by sheep at intervals during the whole year, but it is often given in too great quantity and almost forced upon the sheep; which is always injurious, and often injures the digestion so that the best grain will pass through them unaltered. The best mode, where rock salt is to be had, is to attach pieces here and there in the stable or the pasture and let them lick it as they wish. The usual calculation is from one to two pounds yearly per head, but I have found that something less than one pound was quite sufficient and more than this is not given in Saxony to the best managed flocks.

It is very important that sheep should be furnished with clear water to prevent their drinking from stagnant, muddy pools, which almost always occasions disease. If there is no running stream in their pasture they should be watered as often as twice a day from a well.

The principal requisites for the *stall or shelter* for sheep are dryness, airiness, and sufficient room. They are very little liable to injury from cold. Lambs, however, should be protected from extreme cold for a few weeks after birth.

Dry fodder should always be put in cribs, and not thrown on the ground or barn floor.

The best method of washing wool previous to shearing is to wet the fleece thoroughly on the previous evening by immersing the animal repeatedly in a stream of water, in order that the dirt adhering to the wool may be softened and more easily removable on the following day, when the principal washing is to be done. Care must be taken that the sheep do not swallow any water during the process. Three or four days after the washing, when the wool has been thoroughly dried, and after the natural moisture has begun to reappear, the shearing may be commenced.

(*To be continued.*)

An Address delivered before the Monroe (N. Y.) Agricultural Society, at their annual meeting in 1823. By Mr. James Sperry, *President of the Society.* [Continued from p. 382.]

OBSERVATIONS ON TILLAGE AND FARMING.

Good tillage consists in ploughing and fitting land well for the reception of seed; and good farming, in keeping a farm in repair, and in adapting our system to the nature and extent of the soil, and in determining on a rotation of crops which may keep the whole in such a state of fertility as will reward our labors with abundance. The heighth of good farming would therefore be, in so cultivating our land as to obtain the greatest possible yield, and this without exhausting the soil, beyond a good fertile state; we should however regard economy in the pursuit of this object, so much as to pursue that system which would be attended with the least expense, in proportion to the profits realized. It is well known to the most superficial observer, that although good land may yield abundantly for several years in succession, yet that a constant succession of cropping will ex-

haust the soil so much that it will yield but little more than to defray the expense of cultivation. It is therefore an inquiry af great importance, a correct answer to which, it is the interest of every farmer to obtain, what system shall be adopted to gain the object in view? when shall we plough land of this and that description? what crop shall we raise first? what ought to succeed; and how long may ploughing be continued; and when should land be seeded with grass or clover, that the whole system taken together may yield the greatest nett proceeds; These are important questions, not only to every farmer individually, but so far as the public are interested in the prosperity of individuals, to community at large. And I think it probable there are but few farmers who are not ready to give answers; although perhaps, they would differ widely in material points, and be equally diverse in the result, if accurate experiments were made on their several systems.

I make no pretensions to superior knowledge in the art of husbandry, over my brother farmers, yet the system that I prefer, I will offer, and briefly attempt to vindicate. I would, however, first take a view of the present practice of most of us, in order to contrast *that* with what I should consider to be the most beneficial, if generally introduced.

I think it probable there is not much diversity of opinion as to the treatment of land newly cleared of timber. It is generally conceded that the first crop ought to be wheat together with clover or timothy seed; and thus seeded, permitted to lie in pasture or in meadow, owing to circumstances, until the roots are well rotted for the reception of the plough.

The management of green sward, and the rotation adopted within the circle of my acquaintance, generally is, first, summer fallowing for wheat; second, spring ploughing for corn; third, oats, flax or peas; fourth, wheat again; fifth, rye; sixth, corn again; and so on, until the land is quite exhausted, and very foul: it is then seeded with clover, and permitted to lie in pasture several years, to regain its strength and fertility, and become prepared for another rotation. I would observe, however, to our credit, that some begin to vary a little from this, as it respects the *time* of thus continuing the process, before seeding.

The system and rotation which is recommended by the first agriculturists of the state, beginning with green sward, and which I think, by its economy, is entitled to our confidence and attention, is, first, late fall ploughing, for corn or potatoes; second, spring ploughing, for peas, flax, and other spring crops; third, fall ploughing, for wheat, at which time, or the succeeding spring, seed with clover, to lie three years to pasture or mowing, for another rotation. By contrasting the systems with care and attention, it may easily be determined to which the preference belongs.

The first begins with green sward, by summer fallowing for wheat. For this process, at the season of the year in which this work is generally performed, requires two yoke of oxen, and sometimes, if it be very dry, three yoke are necessary; and for a team of that description a driver is indispensable.

In the latter system, the commencement with the sward is late fall ploughing. One yoke of oxen, this season of the year, will generally plough green sward with as much ease as two will in June, and perform as much in a day. There is therefore a saving in this system in the first process, to wit, breaking up, of one yoke of oxen, at least, and a driver, per acre, as one acre per day, and do the work well, would be a good day's work.

Again; to summer fallow green sward, and such sward as most of our pastures and meadows contain, to wit, spear-grass, two ploughings and often three, besides breaking up, and much harrowing, are necessary, to render the ground mellow and fit for the seed. The harrowing necessary on this, would be more than sufficient to fit the fall ploughing completely for corn. Here again is a saving of a man, a yoke of oxen and plough, two days per acre, in fitting for the first crop; which, at $1 50 per day, amounts to three dollars. This sum added to the saving in breaking up of a yoke of oxen and driver at 75 cts. per day, makes $3 75 per acre saved, if the amount of produce is equal to that of summer fallowing—a sum equal to the rent of good land.

But this is but a small item in the amount saved by this system. To summer fallow, the land of course must be without a crop one season. It is ascertained by chemical experiments, (and every man of nice observation must know it to be a fact,) that while vegetable substances are rotting or decomposing, much of the fertilizing properties evaporate and are lost, unless they be taken up by the roots of plants growing within reach. If the decomposition takes place on the surface of the earth, but a small portion of the virtues of the substance as manure are saved.

It is likewise well known, that well-rotted manure loses its virtues constantly and rapidly, while exposed to rains and the intense heat of a summer's sun. We may therefore count, in addition to the savings of this latter system already mentioned, the nett proceeds of the first crop obtained. We have good reasons for believing that the rich gases of the decomposing sod, which evaporate and are lost on the bare fallow, would be abundantly sufficient to grow and bring to perfection an excellent crop of corn, or other spring grain; and that land thus treated, would be in as good condition for the production of the next succeeding crop, as it would have been had it been cultivated as a bare summer fallow; for in the latter system the sod (which, when decomposed, is a highly fertilizing manure) is beneath the surface, and there continued till the crop is perfected: the decomposition is gradual, and in the course of the season, complete; the earth above it becomes saturated with its fertilizing properties, while the crop is grown and perfected by that which would have been lost, had the sod been thrown up while decomposing, and exposed to the rains and sun.

(*To be continued.*)

New process for tanning Leather.—We have examined a sample of leather tanned in a new mode, by Capt. Charles Munroe, of Northboro', in this county, which is pronounced, by competent judges, to be of the first quality. The sample is calf skins, and was tanned in ten days. By the same process heavy upper leather is thoroughly tanned in from 25 to 30 days, and dry hide sole leather in 90 days. We understand that Phinehas & Joseph Davis, of Northboro', who are well known to be extensively engaged in tanning, having adopted this mode, and are perfectly satisfied of its superiority. By it, the expense is somewhat reduced, and the capital employed may be turned much oftener than in the old way. Sole leather may be tanned three times, upper leather six times, and calf skins nine times in a year, in regular business, with no danger of failure or injury to the leather. The liquor for tanning is used cold.

We would recommend this improvement to the attention of tanners generally, not doubting, from the recommendations we have seen, of its great practical utility. Capt. Munroe is proprietor of the patent right for this State.

[*Mass. Spy.*

From the Massachusetts Yeoman.

The reader will find on the first page, an article by Dr. Fiske, of this town, relative to the "English breed of hogs,"* wherein he controverts the opinion of the writer of an article, heretofore published, on the same subject; and maintains the superiority of that breed. The following communication from the same gentleman, furnishes additional proof of the correctness of his opinion.

Mr. Denny,—Since my communication for the New England Farmer, Col. Ward has furnished me with other facts, favourable to the "English breed of hogs." Two of the pigs, mentioned in the lot which obtained the premium at our last Cattle Show, were slaughtered at eleven months and one day old. One weighed 411 lbs. the other 384 lbs. Mr. Rice, a joint owner, who had the particular care of them, is confident that he obtained this weight with less expense than it cost him to make 300 lbs. from the "old-fashioned kind."

If any further evidence was necessary to establish their credit, it need only to be mentioned, that the Hon. Judge Lincoln, an excellent judge in all matters, is rearing several litters from my stock, and has recently purchased one from my pen, to transmit the breed.

O. FISKE.

June 28, 1824.

* The article alluded to was published in the New England Farmer, vol. ii. page 369.

Western Salt.—We learn from the Troy Sentinel, that a boat has arrived in Troy, from Salina, with 900 bushels of Salt. The cargo was purchased by Messrs. Silliman and Grant, one of our most active and enterprising mercantile houses, and they have contracted for large quantities more. The salt is made by Mr. Byington, who has pans enough in use, we understand, to turn out 2000 bushels a month, and he is making very large additions to them. The salt is of a most beautiful clear white complexion; the chrystals are large enough to rank as coarse salt, and are uncommonly pure. We have no doubt that this salt will preserve meat as effectually as Rock salt, or any other whatever, taking an equal quantity of each.—*Buffaloe Journal.*

Rapid Weaving.—Messrs. Richardson & Whitaker, of Providence, R. I. at their manufacturing establishment in Attleborough, under the superintendance of Mr. Zeba Bliss, wove on 20 Power Looms, week ending June 12th, 6656 2-4 yards No. 14, 3, 4, brown Shirtings,—*Taunton Reporter.*

From the American Farmer.

ON THE DISEASE IN HORSES GENERALLY CALLED THE "BIG HEAD."

Lincoln County, N. C. May 26th, 1824.

MR. J. S. SKINNER,

Sir,—I observed in the American Farmer of the 30th ult. an inquiry made "as to the cause of, and remedy for the disease "called Big Head in horses:" also a request that "a description of the disease and its symptoms" should be furnished.

As to the cause of that malady, I cannot presume to give an opinion about it. It would be mere speculation and theory without any certainty.

Neither am I certain that I can recommend any thing which will incontestibly be a "remedy." But as the mode of treatment, or rather the operation, which I have observed to be the most successful, is extremely simple; as it is attended with very little trouble and no danger; and may, and in my opinion will, in many instances, perform an entire cure; I will, therefore, communicate it to you.

In the first place, I will describe the disorder as it has fallen under my own observation, as well as I can now recollect it; for it has been a number of years since I was conversant with instances of this kind, and whilst I was a boy. About twelve or fourteen years since, it was very prevalent in this part of the country, but is now rarely heard of.

Young horses seem to be more liable to this disease than older ones. The disorder does not appear to be contagious, yet when it commences in a large stock of horses many of them are apt to be affected before it is eradicated; and horses brought from a distance to supply the place of those which die, or become useless, are equally subject to the complaint, as those which have been longer exposed to the compass of its influence. It is generally slow and tardy in its operations, both with regard to the subjects attacked by it, and in attacking others: and in this way will remain on the same premises for several years.

The first appearance of the disease, is generally, perhaps always, an enlargement of the part of the head between the eye and nostril, and on both sides. This unnatural bulk continues to increase in size; in some subjects with greater, and in others with less rapidity. After the horse has been for some time affected in this way, the under jaw also begins to exhibit appearances of a like growth and distension,—and I have sometimes known it even exceed the other in the rapidity of its increase. The subject in some instances at an earlier, and in others at a later period of the disease, begins to languish and lose his activity and his strength; the joints grow stiff and unshapely, and the back becomes weak and unelastic; until at length he dies, or, as is more frequent, a period is put to his protracted life by his owner, to relieve him from his hopeless sufferings.

I have examined the skeletons of several horses which had died with this disorder. The bones of the head, particularly of the jaws, were hoved up and distended. The surface of the bone, with regard to its solidity and consistence, exhibited a natural appearance, but when broken open, the inner part was distended and uncompact, and resembled a dry honey comb or pumice stone. The tooth is composed, as medical men say, of three parts, viz:—1st, the enamel, or outer hard covering—2d, the *bone proper*, which is entirely covered with the enamel down to the gums, and is then inserted into the jaw bone, and with regard to the degree of hardness and consistency, much resembles other bones of the system—and 3d, the nerve, which passes into the tooth, and nourishes it. Now in the skeletons of horses which have died with the Big Head, or Growing Head, I have seen all the bone proper part of the tooth, so much affected as to lose all resemblance to that part in sound teeth. I have observed it exhibit the same appearance and consistence, the same unnatural distension and want of solidity so conspicuous in the bones of the jaw, from which indeed the outlines of that part of it inserted in the jaw, could scarcely be distinguished; they had become so commingled, and had been operated upon, and vitiated by the disease, so much in the same manner.

Some of the bones in other parts of the system appeared likewise to be affected. Those of the fore and hind legs, were perceptibly vitiated, and some of the joints of the back bone exhibited like appearances.

Having thus given a description of the disease, as well as my recollection serves me, I will proceed to point out the mode of treatment which I consider its remedy.

It is unnecessary to describe the different modes practised by those who profess to cure the complaint, and who, no doubt, have some confidence in the efficacy of their prescriptions. I have known none of them succeed well. At the time when the complaint prevailed in this region, my father lost many horses by it. He made use of numerous applications, and tried many experiments,—fomented the head—extracted the teeth—trepanned the parts affected—burnt with a hot iron, and inserted setons or rowels, but was unsuccessful in every way, until the method which I am about to recommend was adopted. It was suggested to him, if I am not mistaken, by a traveller and a stranger.

From that time, his horses which were diseased recovered, and those which were afterwards taken were also cured, and at length the malady disappeared.

The remedy is nothing more than as follows—

Take a piece of bar iron—have it formed into the shape of a chisel, about two inches wide. Let it be about as sharp as chisels usually are when purchased from the store, or as a falling axe is when finished at the shop, and before it is ground. Heat this in a fire until it is quite red—a blacksmith's fire is best, because most convenient.

Search out a gristle or ligament which extends from near the eye of a horse to near his nostril. This ligament is easily discoverable—for in any horse it is as large as a lady's little finger, and in some larger than the thumb of a dandy. Apply the edge of the heated iron across this ligament, about midway between the eye and nostril, and sever it by burning entirely in two, to the bone. This must be done on both sides of the head.

Let the wound then do for itself. If flies should have access to it, and blow it, and maggots ensue—this will do no injury. The severed ligature should be prevented from re-uniting again too readily, and the irritated and suppurating state of the wound may be advantageous; and having kept open and sore for some time, it will heal of itself.

If the disease has not advanced far in its progress, the head will now gradually, and so slowly as to be scarcely perceptible, shrink to its natural dimensions. Where it has advanced further, the horse may still become serviceable, but the head may never entirely regain its natural shape.

And there are of course, stages of the disease in which no remedy will be effectual.

I am aware, Sir, that where a distemper has accomplished its ravages and spent its force, that however malignant and deadly it may have been, generally in its progress, yet at this period, some subjects will begin to withstand it, and will recover from its attacks even without the application of any remedy. This may have been the case with regard to the cure I have suggested; and I am far from holding it out as a certain and effectual specific for the disorder. But since the experiment is one easily made, and I do assure you it is attended with no danger, I hope those who have applied to you for information on this subject will give it a trial, and communicate to you the result.

And with the best wishes for their success and your welfare, I am, Sir,

Respectfully yours,
JOHN F. BREVARD.

From the Connecticut Mirror.

The frequent occurrence of mistakes in the collection of roots and plants, in our fields, for medical and culinary purposes, ought to excite the utmost caution in all; and especially ought to induce parents to caution their children and absolutely prevent them from collecting plants and roots for any purpose whatever. Plants of very different characters and qualities have so near a resemblance, that none but a botanist can distinguish them, with sufficient certainty, to render them safe. The names in common use are frequently erroneous, and applied to different plants in different parts of the country. Thus, the plant commonly known and used here as Bittersweet, is not Bittersweet, but possesses entirely different qualities from it, and a mistake might be attended by serious consequences. The name Crowfoot is applied to plants of very different qualities, and mistaking one for another, would produce very distressing effects. The same may be said of Hyssop, Masterworth and a number of other plants.

These remarks were suggested by a most distressing mistake of this kind which occurred in this town a few days since. A young lady, of delicate health, had been in the habit of using the root of Angelica, to relieve a slight distress at the stomach, to which she was liable.—Her brother, as he supposed, procured some for her, which she chewed, swallowing the juice. Soon after, she was affected with dizziness and weakness of the limbs, followed by blindness, and excruciating pain in the stomach, with vomiting. A physician was called to see her some time after the symptoms commenced, and was satisfied that they were occasioned by taking some narcotic poison. Her brother soon procured some of the plant, which proved to

be the Water Hemlock, (Cicuta Maculata.) At this time she was cold, pale, and horribly sick, and distressed at stomach, vomiting every five or ten minutes, which continued six or eight hours. Her limbs were extremely painful, especially the large joints; her pulse was sixty in a minute, small and soft; pupils dilated and vision indistinct. She soon got relief by the use of remedies, and with the exception of prostration of strength, and a degree of difficulty of seeing, she was well in three or four days.

In the morning succeeding the day on which she took the poison, she had a weakness, weariness, and sense of weight in her limbs, which was indescribable and very distressing.

The Water Hemlock, sometimes called Muskrat Root, Wild Fennel, Water Fennel, Wild Parsley, Snake Weed, &c. is the *Cicuta Maculata* of the Botanists, and not the *Conium Maculatum*, as is generally supposed. It is an umbeliferous plant, growing principally in meadows and low grounds; in its general habit, it resembles Sweet Sicily, for which it is most frequently mistaken. The stem is smooth, round, and hollow, striated, (streaked,) on its external surface, and lined with a white membranous substance within. It rises to the height of three or four feet, and is usually surrounded by two or three smaller stalks, with which it is connected at the roots, The joints of the stem are about ten or twelve inches apart, each joint sending off a branch; the branches enclose the stem at the base, and at the distance of one foot from the stalk, send off smaller, opposite branches.—These are again divided into leaves and branchlets usually in threes, sometimes in fives. The leafets are from one to two and a half inches in length; the middle one about twice as long as the lateral ones. They are from half an inch to an inch in width, tapering to both ends and very regularly notched; from each notch, a vein runs to the rind rib. The plant flowers from the middle of June to the middle of July, leaving umbels of small, white flowers, resembling the common Caraway. The root is composed of six or eight short, thick branches of a yellow color and sweet taste.

Wethersfield, June, 1824.

From the Columbian Centinel.

Mr. Russell,—I saw in your paper a few weeks since, a notice from South Reading, respecting the injurious effects of cheese, which had been dressed with White Lead. The public should be apprized that this is not the only instance of persons having been poisoned with cheese. A similar one happened in my family about three years ago. The cheese was in its appearance and taste of the first quality. The first time it was used, was when a number of friends called to spend the evening.—Most of those who ate of the cheese were sick, some of them very sick through the night. The family not knowing that it was occasioned by the cheese, ate of it again, and were sick.—About the same time, others in the neighborhood were made sick from eating other cheese, probably from the same lot. Whether it was from lead upon the outside, or from something put into the milk to color it, I am unable to say. From the appearance of the cheese, it was thought to be the latter.

I fully accord with the writer of the article above alluded to, that something should be done, if practicable, to prevent the sale of such cheese. At least the names of the families where each lot of cheese is made, should be known by the venders, that those who will thus endanger the health and lives of their fellow citizens, may themselves suffer the consequences of being publicly exposed. W. P.

N. B. The Philadelphia papers mention that several persons in that city had sickened after eating cheese supposed to have been rendered deleterious by the use of the acetate of lead in its production.

Cheese sometimes dangerous.—Last week a number of persons in Frankfort, Pa. were seriously indisposed, and one of them left dangerously ill by eating of a cheese, bought in Philadelphia. It is supposed the cheese had been *covered with lead*, the *acetate* of which is known to be dangerous. A portion of the article was sent to Philadelphia to be analyzed.—*N. Y. Statesman.*

Important Invention.—The greatest improvement, says a correspondent, we have seen for many years in carriages, is a piece of mechanism called the Safety Drag. On inquiry we find this drag may be applied, in a very simple way, to any carriage, at little expense, and used at pleasure by any person on or in the carriage, without stopping, and taken off in a moment. This drag is to be used when descending a steep hill, or at any time, should the horse run away, two-thirds of the weight of any carriage may be placed on it in a moment. Should a horse fall, pole or reins break, the progress of the carriage may be stopped in a moment. How frequently we read of limbs being broken, lives lost, &c. by stage and other horses running away in the absence of the driver, carriages upsetting thro' the pole breaking, and also from reins giving way, restive horses, &c. What would those whose lives are in such danger give at the moment for the Safety Drag? And how frequently we hear of heavy damages being given against stage coach proprietors after such misfortunes. We hope soon to hear of their being in general use, as they are not heavier than a common drag, and the appearance no way against them.—*Scotch paper.*

A Mr. Cook has taken out a patent for a mixture to render all sorts of timbers, cottons, silks, &c. incombustible. A solution of pure fixed vegetable alkali is what he has found most proper for the purpose. He observes that ship timbers prepared in the manner directed, will not only be incombustible, but also effectually preserved from the *dry rot*. He thus concludes, "there are thus three great principles in the application of my discovery, of which I claim the exclusive privilege:—

1st. The application of the alkaline solution in preventing any accidents from calicoes, cottons, muslins, cloths, and linen of every description, bed and window curtains, and sail cloths.

2d. Its application to prevent effectually all wood-work of all sorts, either in buildings or vessels of any description, from being destroyed by fire, either by accident or intention.

3d. The process used to render timber incombustible will, at the same time, completely prevent the dry rot from ever affecting such timber so prepared under my patent.—*Repertory of Arts, No.* 263.

Valuable Improvement.—A machine for making shingles was invented a few years since by Willard Earle, of Athol, in this County, which he has so far improved that it bids fair, soon, to entirely supersede the present mode. The machinery, which is propelled by water, is easily kept in repair, and may be managed by boys, as no part of the work is laborious. By it one person will easily make 3 M. shingles per day. But the greatest advantages to be derived from this improvemnt, consist in the better quality of the work and in the great saving of timber. The shingles made by these machines are all of an uniform thickness, and are made so perfectly true that a man will lay at least a third more, per day, than of the common kind, and the work, when done, is better and more uniform. We understand the ordinary lots of timber will make twice as many shingles in this, as in the common way, there being no waste made, and timber which cannot be worked in the old way, such as bass wood, pine that will not split, &c. may be wrought by these machines to equal advantage with the best of timber. A single machine requires less than a fourth part of the power usually applied to a grist mill.

The inventor has taken a patent for his improvement, and, we are informed, has orders for machines faster than he can supply them. A considerable number are in operation, and give universal satisfaction.—*Mass. Spy.*

Spontaneous Combustion.—The late destruction of a Manufactory near Germantown, Penn. was caused by spontaneous combustion in waste wool. Though but twenty to fifty pounds had accumulated, yet it produced a most dense smoke, and a gas which took fire like gunpowder. The building was instantaneously in a blaze, and not an article could be saved. The oils used in the waste wool were olive and spermaceti—each kind had been so repeatedly used before without any injury, that no danger was apprehended. Repeated experiments that have been made, prove that linseed oil will regularly ignite with waste wool in twenty-four hours.

[*N. Y. paper.*

St. Francisville, S. C. May 15.

The Crops.—The Cotton and Corn look extremely well. Owing to the prevalence of cold weather at the commencement of the planting season, it was feared that the Cotton crop would be very short; but the fine weather that has prevailed for the last ten or twelve days, has wrought an effectual change in the appearance of the fields: Cotton has turned from the sickly, sallow hue it wore, to a lively green; and the stunted fields of corn, from which the disconsolate planter but lately calculated on plucking nothing better than a beggarly crop of *nubbins*, have sprung into new life, and flatter the eyes of a hungry observer with a fair promise of an ample yield.—*Charleston Courier.*

Col. Levi Finney, of Shrewsbury, Vt. sheared from a four year old Native Wether, a few days since, eleven pounds and one ounce of wool. The wool was about ten inches long—two years' growth, and of an excellent texture.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.
SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1824.

FARMER'S CALENDAR.

HAY MAKING. It is a matter of much importance to the husbandman that he should take time by the fore top during the season for making hay. He must drive his business instead of being driven by it. Indolence or improper management in hay-time will soon give a sorry complexion to a farmer's affairs. A day or two lost or misemployed while the sun shines, and your grass suffers for lack of the scythe and the rake, or your grain is *going back* into the ground, while the sickle is rusting on a peg behind the door, and its owner is asleep or gone a journey, may be the means of introducing Mr. Deputy Sheriff on your premises, who may do more harm than a crop of thistles, or a host of Hessian flies.

It is best, generally speaking, to cut your very heaviest grass first of all, and if it be lodged, or in danger of lodging, or the lower leaves and bottom of the stalks are beginning to turn yellow, although the grass is hardly headed, and appears not to have obtained more than two thirds of its growth, you had better begin upon it. But when you have help enough, and your grass stands up well, you will do best to wait till the blossom is fully formed, and is beginning to turn brown. Clover is the most critical grass, and requires the most attention. "In all cases," says Sir John Sinclair, "clover ought to be mown *before the seed is formed** that the full juice and nourishment of the plants may be retained in the hay. By the adoption of this system the hay is cut in a better season,—it can be more easily secured,—and is much more valuable. Nor is the strength of the plant lodged in the seed, which is often lost.

"After being cut, the clover should remain in the swath till it is dried about two thirds of its thickness. It is then not *tedded* or strewed, but turned over, either by the hands, or the heads of hay rakes. If turned over in the morning of a dry day, it may be cocked in the evening. The hay is as little shaken or scattered about afterwards as possible; and if the weather is good, after remaining two or three days in the cock, it may be carted in to the stack.

It is asserted by the "Farmer's Guide," that "grass will not thrive well that is not mown quite close; and the loss in the crop where this is not done is very considerable, *as one inch at the bottom weighs more than several at the top.*"

The fore part of the season for making hay is, we believe, usually attended with less rain than the latter part. The days, too, are longer, and the dews are less copious. Farmers will, therefore, find additional motives from these circumstances to industry and exertion in early hay time. Besides if haying is protracted till harvest commences, the business of one season presses on that of another and some crops will be nearly or quite spoiled in consequence of not being gathered in due time. The fore-handed and industrious farmer thus possesses great advantages over one whom indolence or poverty induces to procrastinate the indispensable labors of his vocation.

Great advantages would result to the farmer, particularly in haying and harvesting, if he could form an estimate of the weather so as to be able to foresee with tolerable accuracy what would be its state for a few days, or even for 24 hours subsequent to the period of observation. Dr. Jenner's versified statement of "Signs of Rain" (published in our paper, vol. ii. 288) may prove useful for this purpose, and the rhymes may assist the memory. A certain French philosopher, some years since, published an article, in which he asserted, in substance, that the web of a common spider is a sure index of the state of the air for twelve or fourteen days to come. If the weather is to be fair and calm, the principal thread will be spun to a great length; if on the contrary the weather is to be stormy and boisterous, the thread will be short and thick, and if the spider is seen to repair the damages its slender thread may sustain, you may anticipate pleasant weather for many days. So says the philosopher, but we cannot vouch for the accuracy of his saying. It may, however, not be amiss for the man of observation to pay some attention to this subject, for we know that the instinct of an insect is often more to be depended on than the researches of science.

In this climate, a southerly wind, if it continues stedfast for 48 hours, is generally followed by rain. If the wind, however, shifts its course with the sun, or, as sailors phrase it, goes round with the sun; in the morning blowing from the south, or east of south and changing westerly as the sun advances, it generally indicates dry weather. If the wind shifts in a course opposite to the apparent course of the sun, rain commonly succeeds. If the wind continues southerly, and blows briskly through the night, it commonly, as the phrase is, "blows up rain." This effect of a south wind in this country may be thus accounted for. A southerly wind is a current of air which has its origin in warmer latitudes than those in which we are situated. This current in passing over the ocean imbibes or takes up as much water as air of its temperature can hold in solution. Passing into higher or colder latitudes the air of the current parts with a portion of its heat or caloric, and cannot retain so much water as it held in its outset. Clouds or vapors are therefore formed, and the excess of moisture is deposited in mist, rain, hail or snow, according to circumstances, the season, &c. On the contrary a northerly wind, coming from a comparatively cold latitude, acquires caloric as it advances, and with that acquisition its capacity for holding water in solution is increased. Therefore a northerly wind is a *drying* wind, and its predominance soon dissipates clouds and introduces fair weather.

But to come down from the clouds to matters more within the reach of the reader. It has been often recommended by writers on agriculture to cart hay, particularly clover, before the stalks are dry, and either to put it up with alternate layers of straw, or to salt it at the rate of from half to one bushel of salt to the ton.

"Salt hay, in this country, has usually been hurt by lying too long in the swaths. The method in which I have treated it for several years, is, to cock it the next day after it is cut, and carry it in, without delaying more than one day, and put a layer of some kind of dry straw between load and load of it in the mow, to prevent its taking damage by over heating. The straw contracts so much of its moisture and saltness, that the cattle will eat it very freely; and the hay is far better than that made in the common way."*

BAD MANAGEMENT IN MONEY MATTERS. There is an error among farmers, who have acquired property, which has a very ill effect both on their own and the public interest. As their money abounds they purchase bank stock, put it out to use, or vest it in some establishment altogether foreign from their proper concern. Some lay it out in buying more land than they can cultivate to advantage, and are thus led to half till their soil instead of cultivating it to profit. A farmer's surplus cash ought, invariably, to be applied to the improvement of his farm till his husbandry is carried to a state of perfection, which is rarely seen in this country. Cash judiciously expended in fencing, subduing, manuring, and erecting necessary and comfortable barns, sheds, &c. may at first seem to lessen a man's capital, but it will eventually prove better than money at interest, and probably soon be worth 20 or 30 per cent. Besides by laying out your money on your own land you get the best possible security, have something to show for what you expend, and must enjoy a degree of satisfaction in dressing dame nature in her best attire, making the vallies laugh, and the little hills on your premises clap their hands. But when your money is all loaned to interest, spent in obtaining mortgages on other men's land, or purchasing bank stock, &c. you act like a miser, and must live like a hermit, with no means of enjoyment, or evidence of property about you, except musty scraps of paper or parchment. You cause no increase of property, do no good to the public with your money, and live to no useful purpose as respects yourself or the community.

* It may not be amiss, however, to state in this place, that agriculturists do not altogether agree on this point. In "Memoirs of the New York Board of Agriculture," vol. ii. p. 30, it is asserted that "all the grasses are more nutritious if not mowed until the seed is fully grown. It should not be entirely ripened, however." The Farmer's Assistant tells us that "the best time for cutting herd's grass, [timothy] where but one crop is cut in the season, is when the seeds of grass are fully formed, but before they have become fully ripe; but as farmers cannot all cut their hay in a day or two, it is necessary that they should begin before this time, that they may not end too long after it. The same time is also proper for cutting clover; or rather when a part of the heads begin to turn brown. Foul meadow or birdgrass, may be cut much later, without being hurt by long standing."

* Deane's New England Farmer.

FOREIGN.

By an arrival at New York, London dates have been received to the 3d of May. They contain more news than usual, with the details of events of more or less importance, which given at large would occupy nearly all our columns. We must therefore content ourselves, and attempt to satisfy our readers with such sketches merely, as we can find room for.

An attempt has been made by the Queen of Portugal, and her son, Don Miguel, to effect a change in the Government. The King was placed under duress, and the Prince assumed the power of Regent, appointing a new Minister of Police, and arresting the existing Minister, and a great number of other officers. The Foreign Ministers interfered, and required that the insurgents should issue an order in the King's name, direct-

ing the troops to disperse. This order was accordingly issued, and tranquillity restored.

Some of the Ministers were arrested at a ball given by the British Ambassador. Marshal Beresford was among the first to demand an audience of the King and to assure him of his personal devotion to the administration. The Foreign Ministers on this occasion conducted with great spirit and energy, particularly Mr. Hyde De Neuville, the French Ambassador. It would seem that the efficient body of the kingdom were in favor of the Queen and her party, and that the King was compelled, in order to maintain his authority, to make preparations for seeking an asylum on board a British man of war.

The Ex-Emperor Iturbide has left England for Mexico. The vessel in which he embarked had a quantity of military stores on board, and a printing apparatus for the purpose of printing proclamations for circulation in his native country. On his departure he addressed a note to a friend in London stating that his return "had been solicited by different parts of the country, which consider me necessary to establish unanimity there, and to the consolidation of the Government."

DEATH OF LORD BYRON.

On the 9th of April, Lord Byron, who had been living very low, exposed himself in a very violent rain; the consequence of which was a severe cold, and he was immediately confined to his bed. The low state to which he had been reduced by his abstinence, and probably by some of the remaining effects of his previous illness, made him unwilling—at any rate he refused to submit—to be bled. It is to be lamented that no one was near his lordship who had sufficient influence over his mind, or was himself sufficiently aware of the necessity of the case, to induce him to submit to that remedy, which, in all human probability, would have saved a life so valuable to Greece. The inflammatory action, unchecked, terminated fatally on the 19th of April.

There are no letters of his lordship's of a date subsequent to the commencement of his illness. The friends who were near him at the time of his decease, in addition to Prince Mavrocordato, were Mr. Parry, who had organized the artillery and engineer corps for the Greeks at Missolonghi, Mr. Bourke, and Count Camba. The letters from the last named gentleman first communicated the intelligence to Lord Sidney Osborne, who forwarded it with the kindest attention to the friends of Lord Byron in England, and proceeded from Corfu to Zante, to make whatever arrangements might be necessary respecting his remains.

Lord Byron had succeeded, his friends are informed, in stirring up among the people of the part of Greece in which he had resided, an almost inconceivable enthusiasm. His exertions were incessant in their cause and the gratitude of the people was proportioned to them. His influence was not lessened by being employed often to procure humane, even kind treatment towards the Turkish captives. On the day of Lord Byron's death, and when he appeared in imminent danger, the Prince Mavrocordato wrote to his lordship's friend and companion, Count Camba, requesting that a Committee might be immediately appointed to take the necessary measures for the security of his property; in consequence of which, four gentlemen have been nominated to act until other arrangements can be made.

One of the letters from Corfu, received on Saturday, and dated April 23, states that Lord Byron died possessed of considerable property in Greece, having for some time resolved to pass his life there, and received considerable sums from England for the purpose of investment. The Honorable Leicester Stanhope had signified his intention of leaving Greece for family affairs in this country, but he had received a pressing invitation from Prince Mavrocordato to remain; and Major Hastings, a gentleman who has been for some time, there, has also had inducements offered to him to remain firm to the cause which he had so mainly assisted. We understand that Colocotroni, one of the bravest Greek Generals, but who had thrown great impediments in the way of Greek Independence, by his jealously of Ypsilanti and Mavrocordato, had endeavored for some time to prevent the employment of foreign auxiliaries. This man, however, being abandoned by his troops, and wandering, it is said, among the mountains, has no longer any influence, and our countrymen in Greece are likely to feel the effect of his disgrace very beneficially for their interests.

As soon as the death of Lord Byron was known, the Greek Government of Missolonghi issued a proclamation, announcing the event as most calamitous to all Greece, and particularly to Missolonghi—who has lost the most munificent of her benefactors. It was decreed that minute guns be fired, public offices and shops closed, every species of amusement suspended for three days—a general mourning worn for twenty-one days, and funeral ceremonies performed in all the churches. A most ready obedience was paid to these orders notwithstanding the Easter holidays were in celebration.

The Memoirs of Lord Byron, from his own pen, are destroyed. They were intrusted to the safe keeping of Mr. Thomas Moore, and designed as a legacy for his benefit; but on hearing of the decease of his noble friend, Mr. Moore, with his characteristic sensibility, had a meeting with a near connexion of his Lordship, and after mature reflection on the contents of the MS. she apprehending that some of the disclosures might give pain to the minds of many persons still living, though no sort of imputation could rest on her brother's memory, Mr. Moore, with a spirit and generosity beyond all praise, placed the MS. in the Lady's hands, *and permitted her to burn it in his presence.* It ought to be added, that Mr. M. with Lord B's consent, had pledged the MS. to Mr. Murray, the bookseller, and had received 2000*l.* sterling on it; and the next morning the 2000*l.* was repaid by the self-destituted legatee! It is said the last words of Lord Byron, before his delirium ensued, were:—"I wish it may be known that my last thoughts were given to *my wife, my child, and my sister.*"

DOMESTIC.

A Canal from Boston Bay to Ipswich Bay has been recently opened by which between five and six miles may be saved in a passage from Boston to Ipswich and Newburyport. An appropriation of $6000 dollars was made for this object by Congress.

Useful Bank.—The Legislature of Connecticut, at the last session, incorporated a Bank in Farmington, with a capital of $500,000; on condition that the Institution purchase shares in the Farmington Canal Corporation to the amount of $100,000, and a further sum of $100,000, if the Canal Company should require the same; and in consequence to receive a perpetual charter, be exempted from taxation forever, and be allowed to issue its paper to the amount of fifty per cent beyond its capital paid in. *Centinel.*

It is rumored that the Lawyers have gathered an abundant harvest by the Spanish Treaty. The claimants are said to have promised them a *five per cent commission* on the amount of the awards obtained; and it is added that one of the most eminent of our Counsellors will receive over $60,000 for his services; and still further, that the claimants think the money well laid out. *ibid.*

Another fashionable murder.—Letters from Arkansas, state that the Hon. Josiah Selden, a Judge of the U. S. Court for that territory, was killed in a duel by Judge Scott, on the 26th May. He has left a wife and child to mourn his sudden exit; the former, it is said, followed her husband to within a mile of the combat.

Canal Steam Boat.—A Steam Boat, we learn, commenced running on the Erie Canal, between Utica and Rochester, the 9th inst. The fare including boarding and lodging, is advertised at *three cents per mile.* This is another degree of improvement in our inland navigation of which it was not thought susceptible. The certainty, the cheapness and the comfort, of this mode of travelling, over all others, are evident.

Last year a rattle snake was killed on Bullard's plains, in the parish of Feliciana, which had not less than one hundred and thirty-seven rattles. If the generally received opinion, that the number of rattles denote the age of this species of the serpentine race be correct, the snake must have been as many years old as it had rattles. The oldest inhabitants of that section of our state, had never previously seen one with more than forty rattles. The longevity of the rattle-snake alluded to was perhaps entitled to a pre-emption right from the Land Commissioners at St. Helena Court House, as the first settler of Bullard's plains.
Lou. Adv.

Half a peck of new potatoes, the first of the season, raised from the balls, by Mr. Gideon Spencer, were sold to Mr. Sanford Horton, on Thursday, for 50 cents. They are said to be the best kind of potatoes raised in this country, and yield the greatest increase.
Prov. Gaz.

ERRATUM.—In the communication from the Hon. O. FISKE, published in our paper of the 14th inst. page 369, first column, an error occurs which it is hoped our readers will be so good as to correct, as it entirely alters the sense of the sentence. As it stands it reads thus, "At our Cattle Show in 1822, the year after mine were exhibited, the two best boars in the pen were of this *com*mixed breed." The word *com*mixed should have been *un*mixed.

WANTED No. 43, of the 1st Vol. of the N. E. Farmer. For which a generous price will be given by the publisher of this paper.
June 12.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
APPLES, good, to best,	bbl.	3 00	3 50
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	112	115
pearl do.		117	117 50
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 10
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs. new,	bbl.	9 50	10
cargo, No 1,		7 50	7
" No 2,		6 25	6 50
BUTTER, inspect. No. 1.	lb.		
CHEESE, new milk		7	10
skimed milk,		3	4
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	82	84
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St.	bbl.	6 75	
Genessee,		6 75	
Rye, best		2 75	
GRAIN, Rye	bush	52	54
Corn		41	48
Barley			
Oats		31	34
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	11	12
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1823		38	40
LIME,	cask	90	1 20
OIL, Linseed, Phil. and Northern	gal.	70	75
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	3 25	
PORK, Bone Middlings new,	bbl.	16 00	17
navy, mess,		13 50	
Cargo, No 1,		12 50	13
SEEDS, Herd's Grass, 1822,	bush	1 75	
Clover	lb.	7	
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		50	70
do do unwashed		35	40
do 3-4 washed		40	55
do 1-2 do		35	50
Native do		30	35
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		50	00
do Spinning, 1st sort		40	42
PROVISION MARKET.	lb.		
BEEF, best pieces		8	12
PORK, fresh, best pieces,		9	10
" whole hog,		5	6
VEAL,		2	8
MUTTON,		3	12
POULTRY,		8	17
BUTTER, keg & tub,		5	12
lump,		16	18
EGGS,	doz.	13	16
MEAL, Rye, retail,	bush	60	65
Indian, do.		55	60
POTATOES,		20	37
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	2 50	3 50
HAY, according to quality,	ton.	16 00	18 00

From the National Gazette.

The celebrated Ventriloquist, Mr. Alexandre, lately paid a visit to Sir Walter Scott, near Edinburgh, and having chanced to mention to his host that he kept an *Album* or *Scrap-Book*, Sir Walter stept aside and almost immediately returned to him with the following characteristic lines.

TO MONS. ALEXANDRE.

Of yore, in Old England, it was not thought good,
To carry two visages under one hood:
What should folks say to *you*, who have faces such plenty,
That from under one hood you last night shew'd us twenty!
Stand forth, arch deceiver! and tell us, in truth,
Are you handsome or ugly, in age or in youth?
Man, woman, or child? or a dog, or a mouse?
Are you, at once, each live thing in the house?
Each live thing, did I ask? each dead implement too!
A work shop in your person—saw, chizel and screw.
Above all, are you *one* individual? I know
You must be, at the least, Alexandre *and Co.*
But I think you're a troop—an assemblage—a mob—
And that I, as the Sheriff, must take up the job;
And, instead of rehearsing your wonders in verse,
Must read you the Riot Act, and bid you disperse.

WALTER SCOTT.

Abbotsford, April 23.

EPIGRAM.

Jane to her spouse could not bestow
One tear of sorrow when he died—
His life had made so many flow,
That all the briny fount was dried.

Miscellany.

A professional gentleman, who has lately written a treatise entitled the *Art of Preserving the Sight*, relates the following fact, in order to show the danger attending compression of the eyes:—"I was called in some years ago to the case of a strong man, who had always enjoyed most excellent sight until a short time previous, when he had become totally blind from the following incident. One day he happened to be engaged with a party of friends, when some person entered the room without his noticing it, who ran familiarly to cover his eyes with his two hands, desiring him to guess who it was that blinded him. Either unable or perhaps not choosing to guess the person's name, he endeavored to disengage himself from his hands; but the stronger effort he made for that purpose, the more forcibly did the other press his hands upon his eyes, and this so long, and with such deadly effect, that the unfortunate man when permitted, to open his eyes, found himself totally blind although there was no apparent hurt done to the organ."

Ingenious Imposition.—A lady lost a gold watch, near Smithfield, a short time ago, which she advertised, offering five guineas reward for its restoration. A fellow, in the garb of a countryman, called at the lady's house, and said that his master, who was a respectable farmer residing in Essex, had found the watch, and that he would be at the Ram Inn, Smithfield, on the following day, when she might receive her watch. His master, he added, would not take the reward offered, as he was in good circumstances, and of such strict honest principles, that it would be repugnant to his feelings for doing what he considered to be only an act of justice, &c. The lady, on hearing this, was highly pleased, and thought that the poor faithful domestic of the honest farmer ought to be rewarded for the good tidings he brought: she accordingly gave him five shillings, and desired him to inform his master that she would not fail of calling on him the next day. She was punctual; but—need we add the sequel? she neither saw the honest farmer nor her watch.

[*Eng. paper.*

We have often wondered how it is possible for a physician, who sees in the human frame so many wonderful marks, not only of design, but of wisdom, power, and goodness, and who is so often reminded of the transitory nature of earthly existence, can help being deeply impressed with a sense of religious obligation.—The ingenious arrangement and exact balance of the various muscles,—the inscrutable operations which are constantly going on in the stomach and alimentary canal,—the heart and arteries impelling the vital fluid to every part of the body, and the veins accompanying the arteries to receive the refluent blood, and convey it back to the heart,—the brain deriving nervous power from the blood thrown to it by the heart, and the heart continuing its motion by the nervous influence which it derives from the brain,—all proclaim, in a language no infidel can resist, the existence and wisdom of the great Designer.—Surely, it seems to us, "an undevout *anatomist* is mad."

Boston Medical Intelligencer.

I have suffered by sore feet, occasioned by hard gravelly walks, and by a foot fever in the summer. A British officer told me to adopt the practice of those who have to undergo long marches, *viz.* to soap the inside of my stockings. I have done so, and experienced a delightful coolness and ease. Let us learn to communicate, and benefit each other: to this no sectarian ever can object.—Men of all persuasions sometimes walk, and are exposed to sore feet. *Ex pede Herculem* is an old adage; how important then is my subject. Your columns must be filled with publick business at the close of the session, or I would expatiate upon the advantages of being sound from top to toe.

[*Nat. Journal.*

The Attorney and Physician.—As two of these gentlemen were setting together in a public house, the doctor began to reproach the Attorney with the number of strange words which the law indulges in, viz.—"Habeas Corpus," "fieri facias," &c. &c. and amongst others, asked what was meant by the words "Docking an entail."—"Why, doctor," replied the attorney, "it is doing what you will not do with your patients—it is *suffering a recovery.*"

A very ignorant nobleman observing one day, at dinner, a person eminent for his philosophical talents, intent on choosing the delicacies of the table, said to him—"What! do philosophers love dainties?"—"Why not?" replied the scholar, "Do you think, my lord, that the good things of this world were made only for blockheads.?"

Cooper relates the following anecdote.—Passing one day along Broadway, New-York, he overheard a little negro say to a companion in somewhat a tone of contempt—"There goes Cooper the play actor." "Hold your tongue," says the other, at the same time jogging him with his elbow, "*you don't know what you may come to yet!*"

Curran's ruling passion was his joke. In his last illness, his physician observing, in the morning, that he seemed to cough with more difficulty, he answered, 'That is rather surprising, as *I have been practising all night.*'

GROSEILLE WINE,

PUT up expressly for families, in kegs of 6 gallons each, and delivered at any part of the city at $5, 25 per keg. Also in cases of 1 dozen bottles, for sale by the subscriber.

This genuine and excellent article is made by Dr. Benjamin Dyer, of Providence, who cultivates in one field forty-five acres of Currant Bushes; and it is the opinion of men of medical science that the Wine made of the Fruit of the Currant is equal, in all respects, when old, to the best imported Wines. It is in flavor much like the old Constantia, and were it as dear, and not *known* to be of home manufacture, no family in the habit of keeping Wine would be without it. It has, in several instances, passed off at parties as foreign Wine of the most delicious character; it exhilirates without producing intoxication, and its effects are peculiarly beneficial to costive habits.—As a Summer Beverage it is not surpassed by any other.

E. COPELAND, Jr. *No.* 65, *Broad-street.*

June 26.

SAXONY SHEEP.

On THURSDAY, 15th of July next, at 3 o'clock, P. M. at the Punch Bowl Tavern, near Boston,

WILL be sold at Auction, an entire flock of SAXONY SHEEP, consisting of 46 Rams, 25 Ewes, and 4 Lambs, just arrived per Velocity from Bremen.

These sheep were selected with great care, by a person fully qualified for the purpose, from among eight or ten thousand of the finest sheep in Saxony, and are presumed to be decidedly superior to any sheep which have heretofore been imported. The comparative value of Saxony Wool above the Spanish is well known; the small quantities which have reached this country, have been eagerly bought up by the manufacturers of fine cloths, but the duty imposed by the new tariff, will soon prevent further importations.

Purchasers are assured that none of the sheep will be disposed of on any terms, before the above date; they may be examined any time previous to the day of sale at Mr. Perry's, about a quarter of mile from the Punch Bowl Tavern in Brookline, on the road leading to Cambridge.

Catalogues will be immediately prepared and ready for delivery. Conditions liberal and made known at the sale.

COOLIDGE, POOR & HEAD, *Auct'rs.*

June 19.

PATENT STEEL SPRING HAY FORKS.

JUST received and for sale at the Agricultural Establishment, No. 20, Merchants' Row, a large supply of Goodwin's highly approved Patent Steel Spring *Hay* and *Manure FORKS.* Also, a few dozen very superior Rakes, Cam's cast steel Scythes, Dudley's warranted steel back do., Bisbee's cast steel polished Shovels—together with a great variety of other agricultural implements. June 12.

TO PRINTERS.

FOR sale at this Office BALL SKINS, at the usual prices.

June 12.

TERMS OF THE FARMER.

☞ Published every Saturday, at THREE DOLLARS per annum, payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within *sixty days* from the time of subscribing will be entitled to a deduction of FIFTY CENTS.

☞ No paper will be discontinued (unless at the discretion of the publisher,) until arrearages are paid.